



# Early Literacy

## DEVELOPMENTAL MILESTONES CHECKLISTS

### Reading Development

0-3 MONTHS	<input type="checkbox"/> Listens to and looks at a book for brief periods of time
3-6 MONTHS	<input type="checkbox"/> Reaches toward and touches a book <input type="checkbox"/> May respond to caregiver's voice while reading by smiling and cooing
6-9 MONTHS	<input type="checkbox"/> Recognizes familiar objects in pictures <input type="checkbox"/> Especially likes pictures of faces <input type="checkbox"/> Vocalizes and pats pictures <input type="checkbox"/> Explores a book by feeling it, turning it upside down, putting it in mouth, dropping it, or throwing it
9-12 MONTHS	<input type="checkbox"/> Reaches for the favorite of two books offered <input type="checkbox"/> Especially likes books with single pictures of familiar objects <input type="checkbox"/> Looks at pictures that are named <input type="checkbox"/> Opens and closes book <input type="checkbox"/> Pays attention to a story for a few minutes at a time

### Reading Development

### Writing Development

12-18 MONTHS	<input type="checkbox"/> Gives book to caregiver to read aloud <input type="checkbox"/> Holds book with help <input type="checkbox"/> Turns board book pages <input type="checkbox"/> Points to pictures in a book to show interest <input type="checkbox"/> Copies caregiver's reactions to the book <input type="checkbox"/> Begins to name some familiar objects in pictures	<input type="checkbox"/> Grasps a crayon and makes marks on paper or surface <input type="checkbox"/> Holds crayon or marker in fist
18-24 MONTHS	<input type="checkbox"/> Carries book around the room <input type="checkbox"/> May verbally request books <input type="checkbox"/> Follows simple stories <input type="checkbox"/> Especially likes nursery rhymes and books about familiar routines like bedtime or bath time <input type="checkbox"/> Uses a word or two to comment on a favorite picture	<input type="checkbox"/> Scribbles and experiments with marks on paper, but no understanding of "writing" yet

## Reading Development

## Writing Development

2-3  
YEARS

- Loves reading the same book again and again
- Holds book right side up
- Learns to turn paper pages, may turn 2 to 3 pages at a time
- Searches for favorite picture or page
- Tells about pictures in own words
- Repeats some of the words or phrases in a story
- Fills in words or completes the end of sentences/rhymes in familiar stories
- Pretends to read books aloud to self
- Begins to recognize some frequently seen signs and symbols (e.g., stop sign or fast food logo)

- Scribbling becomes more varied to include vertical lines, horizontal lines, and circles
- May start to hold a crayon between thumb and fingers
- May verbally describe own drawings or “writing”

3-4  
YEARS

- Turns pages one at a time and from left to right
- Sits still for longer stories read aloud
- Retells a familiar story in own words
- Begins to recognize some letters and numbers
- May spontaneously rhyme or detect rhymes
- Pretends to read to a caregiver, dolls, or stuffed animals
- Relates a story to personal experiences

- Begins to draw recognizable forms
- Can copy a circle and a cross
- Understands that writing is used for communicating ideas and information
- Makes symbols or squiggles that resemble writing
- Begins to copy some capital letters
- May switch direction while writing and rotate the orientation of the paper
- Can dictate story or letter to be written down
- May express interest in typing on electronic devices